

Major snowstorm and a wet New Year's Eve

YAHOO! NEWS

While the West Coast catches a breather this last weekend of 2006, snow-weary residents of the southern Rockies and High Plains only wish 2006 would end sooner. A crippling blizzard has brought life virtually to a standstill in parts of extreme eastern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Snowfall from 1 to 4 feet, driven by wind gusts from 20 to 50 mph, have lead to whiteout conditions, at times. Incredibly, drifts as high as 15-18 feet, over 1 story tall, were observed in the small town of Sheridan Lake, Colo. near the Kansas state line. Large stretches of I-25, I-40, and I-70 were shutdown, and numerous other U.S. and state roads were closed. For Albuquerque, this was truly an historic snowstorm. During Friday and Saturday, over 16" fell of snow at the "Sunport". Over 11" fell on Friday alone, setting a new all-time calendar-day snowfall record. The average yearly snowfall in the city is only 12". This two-day snowfall event falls just short of the all-time heaviest two-day snowstorm on record in Albuquerque, 18.9" on December 14 and 15, 1959. Not to be outdone, New Mexico's capital, Santa Fe, picked up a whopping 25" of snow! This second major Rockies snowstorm in just 10 days spared the Denver metro area a second round of snow.



This is the snow that got at it's highest. This is outside of our bedroom window. You can see the snow stacked up on the chair – about two feet.



Different views of the snow – a close-up of the chair and a different view from our bedroom window (left), and the view from my office window (right). In the upper right you can see the top of the mountains covered with snow.



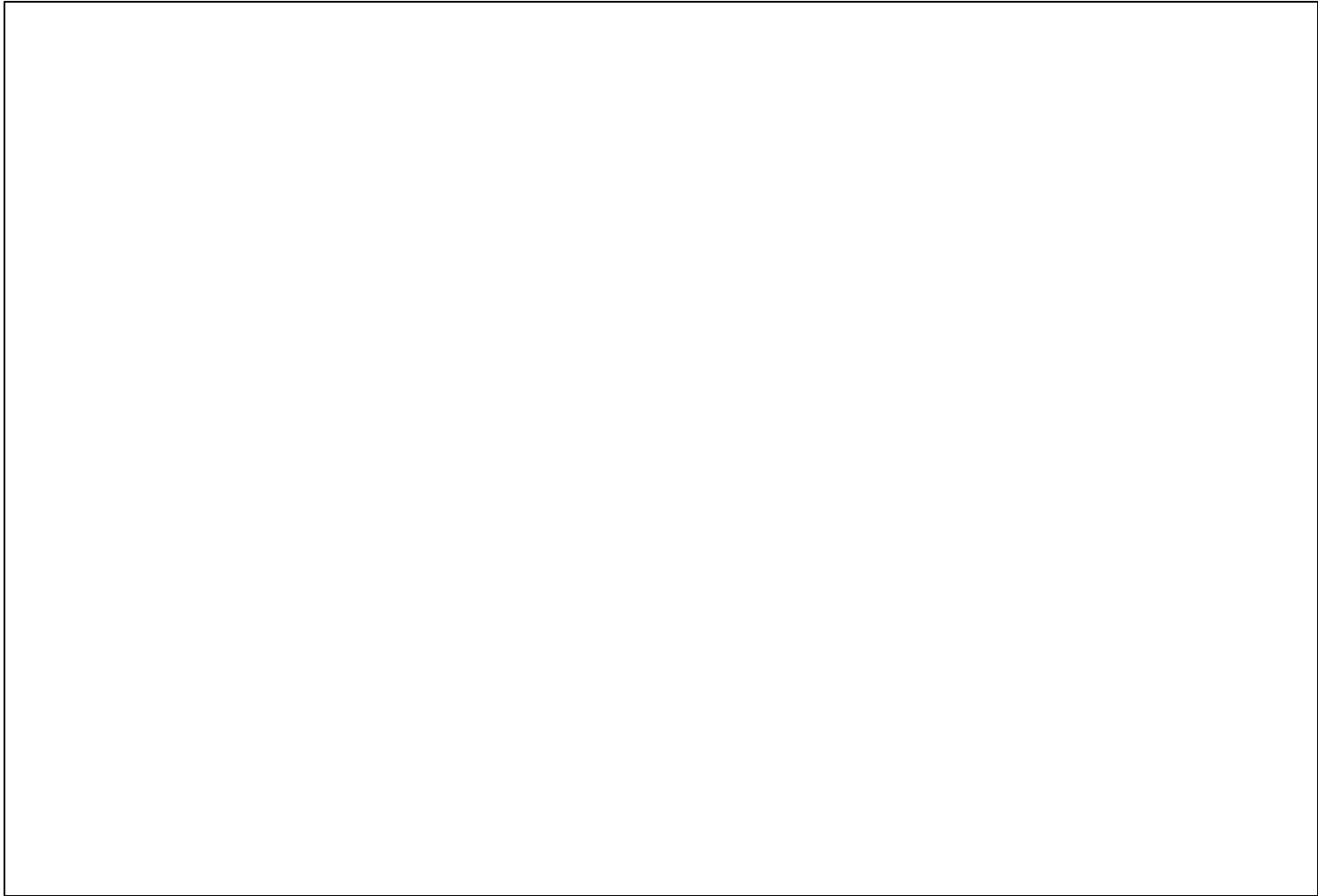
This is a shot of the view from my office – a chaise is next to the window (shown left) and the snow beyond that. To the right is my computer stations – one personal (shown in the photo), and one for work (to the right just outside of the photo).



This shows my work area. I just swivel the chair to a different monitor and keyboard drawer and I can switch from personal computer to my work notebook.

Just a shot of a pellet stove we got when we bought the house. It uses wood pellets (which are typically sold out in the stores so you have to stock up early in the year). Keeps the house warm on snow days like we've had lately.





Here's a close up picture of the snow.